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REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance as set forth below.

Initially, the drawings are objected to with regard to the use of the reference notations "19" and "L1" in Figures 3 and 5. Applicants are submitting replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 5. In Figures 3 and 5, the reference character for the strips has been changed from "19" to "17" as supported by the specification, e.g., page 6, lines 30-31. In Figure 5, the reference character "L1" for the free leading end has been changed to "Li" as supported by the specification, e.g., page 9, line 19. No other changes to the drawings have been made. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings and acceptance of the replacement drawings are respectfully requested.

The disclosure is objected to because on page 6, lines 14-15, "an axis 1A" should be "an axis A-A". Applicants have amended the specification accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are objected to because of certain informalities as set forth at pages 2-3 of the official

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action. Applicants have amended claims 1-22 to correct these informalities. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 are objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form on the basis that claim 19 is not considered further limiting as to base claim 18. Applicants have amended claim 19 regarding dependency. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with regard to certain description in claims 8, 15 and 22 as set forth at page 4 of the official action. Applicants have amended claims 8, 15 and 22 to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 12-20 and 29-36 of copending U.S. Serial No. 10/535,424. Applicants are submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer with regard the captioned application and U.S. Serial No. 10/535,424. Accordingly, the provisional rejection of the claims based on obviousness-type double

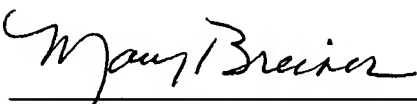
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patenting is overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments - Replacement Sheets (2 Sheets)
- Terminal Disclaimer